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DARLING GOES AFTER FACTS  
ON THE WATERFOWL PROBLEM

What are North America's most important waterfowl problems?

Jay N. Darling, recently appointed chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is making an effort to answer this question.

"We could solve our difficulties much more readily if everybody interested in this natural resource knew just what the problems are," says Darling. In this belief he is carrying on an intensive fact-finding and educational program.

"We Americans have been shooting ducks in the past," says the Bureau chief, "without knowing whether or not we have enough to kill. This year we expect to have accurate, up-to-date knowledge on the waterfowl conditions on this continent. On the facts we are gathering is going to depend the 'take' that will be allowed to shooters this year. And we are not going to guess at the matter. Naturalists of the Biological Survey will be making special investigations on wild-fowl breeding grounds this spring, and other employees of the Bureau and many cooperators also will be carefully observing conditions in their own localities. Sportsmen, conservationists, and nature lovers generally, for their own special reasons will await with interest the verdict to be reached."

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The basic facts, Mr. Darling explains, have been obtained by the Biological Survey over a long period and have been made widely available. As an aid toward a general understanding of the present situation, the Bureau has recently devised a series of maps showing the principal breeding ranges of the most important game birds. Each map shows also the areas over which the species is shot for sport in the United States and Canada. Appended to each map is a concise explanation, and there is also a brief general statement describing the conditions affecting the entire group of birds.

"A study of this series of maps, and a consideration of the brief statements that accompany them," says Darling, "should emphasize our obligation to throw all possible safeguards around these valuable species." Copies of the maps are mailed on request to editors of outdoor periodicals and to conservation officials and other leaders interested in making known the facts about America's waterfowl problems.

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